

SENATE No. 1912

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Susan C. Fargo

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act to promote healthy transportation planning.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Susan C. Fargo	Third Middlesex
William N. Brownsberger	24th Middlesex
Stephen M. Brewer	Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin
Benjamin Swan	11th Hampden

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT TO PROMOTE HEALTHY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. WHEREAS, increasing evidence from health research links the increase in childhood and adult obesity and related conditions of ill health to the significant decrease in regular physical activity of people in part due to transportation policies geared heavily toward motor vehicle use; and

WHEREAS, increased childhood and adult obesity will reduce the quality of life for many Massachusetts residents and result in ever increasing costs to deal with the medical complications of obesity, including diabetes, heart ailments and other diseases;

THEREFORE;

SECTION 2. Chapter 6A of the General Laws is hereby amended by creating section 19B with the following language:-

Section 19B (a) The secretary shall ensure that transportation policies and infrastructure decisions affirmatively include a commitment to promote and/or enhance multiple modes of transportation including pedestrian, bicycle, and forms of public transportation and other

14 transportation-related contributions that increase active lifestyles that improve public health and
15 decrease childhood and adult obesity.

16 (b) All local, regional and state roadway construction, reconstruction, and maintenance projects
17 receiving state or federal transportation funding shall meet the guiding principle of the state
18 roadway design guidelines, The Project Development and Design Guide, which states that
19 roadways of the Commonwealth must safely accommodate all users of the public right-of-way
20 including: pedestrians, (including people requiring mobility aids); bicyclists; drivers and
21 passengers of transit vehicles, trucks, automobiles and motorcycles. The guidelines further state
22 that designers and decision-makers are encouraged to fully consider these modes of
23 transportation throughout the planning, design, and construction phases of projects.

24 (c) The secretary shall take actions to include a voting representative from the Executive Office
25 of Health and Human Services on the board of the Boston Region Metropolitan Planning
26 Organization and on other regional planning organizations.

27 (d) All transportation and parking projects using state funds or requiring review under the
28 Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act will include routine accommodations for non-
29 motorized modes, such as bicycles, including parking and connections.

30 (e) Any transportation project using state funds or requiring review under the Massachusetts
31 Environmental Policy Act that expands roadway capacity shall include plans and projects to
32 specifically increase non-motor vehicle use in the communities to the same degree that roadway
33 capacity is increased.